

Meeting Summary

Delta Regional Management Actions Work Group Meeting 3

November 9, 2010, 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Location: West Sacramento City Hall
1110 West Capitol Ave
West Sacramento, CA 95691**

Presentations and Materials Available Online at www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Work Group Members Present:

Name	Organization
George Booth	Sacramento County
Daniel Burmester	California Department of Fish and Game
John Cain	American Rivers, California Flood Management
Bill Darsie	KSN, Inc.
Matilda Evoy-Mount	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gilbert Labrie	Branan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District, RD 2067, 407, 317
Mike Machado	Delta Protection Commission
Dave Shpak	City of West Sacramento/ West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Chuck Spinks	American Society of Civil Engineers
Jan Vick	Mayor, City of Rio Vista
Jane Wagner Tyack	Restore the Delta / League of Women Voters
Tyler Willsey	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leo Winternitz	The Nature Conservancy

Group Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Mitch Avalon	Delta 5 Counties Coalition
Steve Bradley	Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Marci Coglianesse	BDPAC and Delta Levees & Habitat
Robin Kulakow	Yolo Basin Foundation
Karen Medders	North Delta CARES
Chris Neudeck	KSN, Inc.
Sarah Puckett	Natural Heritage Institute
Jerry Robinson	San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation
Brooke Schlenker	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sam Sharideh	San Joaquin County Flood Management Division

Support Team Present:

Jeremy Arrich	DWR
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Lori Clamurro-Chew	DWR
Terri Gaines	DWR
Nekane Hollister	DWR
Mike Inamine	DWR
Ibrahim Khadam	MWH
Christal Love	CCP (Facilitation Team)
Ann Marie Parkin	DWR
Michael Perrone	DWR
Eric Poncelet	Kearns & West (K&W) (Facilitation Team)
Brian Smith	DWR
Yung-Hsin Sun	MWH
Robert Yeadon	DWR

Observers: none

WORK GROUP ACTION ITEMS

ITEM		OWNER	TIMEFRAME
1.	Distribute a Microsoft Word version of the Phase 2 Assessment Questionnaire to the Delta Regional Management Action Work Group (Work Group) members for written responses.	CCP	November 9 2010
2.	Work Group members will contact Eric Poncelet if they would like an individual interview as part of the Phase 2 assessment process.	Members	November 12 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING GOALS

1. Discuss feedback on MAR and IPS2
2. Outline what the 2012 CVFPP will include
3. Develop list of proposed regional objectives building on Subcommittee initial draft
4. Describe Phase 3 process and opportunities for involvement

SUMMARY:

Welcome and Greetings

Eric Poncelet, Kearns and West, opened the meeting, and reviewed the meeting goals and agenda items. Self introductions followed.

Opening Remarks

Jeremy Arrich, DWR CVFPO, welcomed the group and thanked them for their continued participation in the development of the CVFPP. He expressed his excitement and gratitude as the group nears completion of Phase 2. He noted that there has been public concern that the schedule may be moving too fast, and that staff may not have the time to produce the report they want to. Although specific information on a revised timeline is not available at this time, Mr. Arrich noted that staff is reexamining whether they can produce a draft CVFPP by the 2012 deadline, or if the schedule might need to be revised.

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Mike Inamine, DWR Executive Sponsor, also thanked the members for participating and mentioned two important CVFPP documents currently underway:

- Progress report, which is required by the legislation, will be completed by the end of the year.
- Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the CVFPP was released in October. Scoping meetings for this are scheduled for November 15th, 16th and 18th.

Document Update

Ibrahim Khadam, MWH, provided an overview of documents associated with the 2012 CVFPP, including the State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document (SPFCDD), the Flood Control Systems Status Report (FCSSR), a History Document, the Progress Report, the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the Management Actions Report (MAR), and the Interim Progress Summary #2 (IPS-2). The SPFCDD is complete and pending release in November.

Mr. Khadam then provided an overview of the MAR and IPS-2, including document organization and content. Work Group comments on the MAR and IPS-2 are due November 12th. The documents were released to Work Group members on November 1st. The appendices (which constitute the bulk of the MAR) were sent out for comment on October 6th. After an overview of the documents, Mr. Poncelet asked Work Group members for comments.

Discussion:

- A participant asked if the history document will be made available for public comment. Mr. Khadam responded that it would.
- A participant expressed concern that the group had not spent more time discussing supporting objectives.
- A few participants requested an update on how the CVFPP is being coordinated with the Delta Stewardship Council and other State and Federal agencies. Staff responded that a broad coordination effort is currently being conducted by FloodSAFE. More information will be released next year.

Overview of 2012 CVFPP

Mr. Arrich provided an overview of the 2012 CVFPP, noting that the intent of the presentation was to explain what the expected content of the CVFPP is and what DWR hopes to accomplish. The presentation included a timeline of FloodSAFE accomplishments, the proposed processes for developing the 2012 and 2017 CVFPP, and a detailed explanation of the expected contents of the 2012 CVFPP.

Mr. Arrich explained that, ultimately, the CVFPP is expected to provide the roadmap for effective flood management throughout the Central Valley. Although it will not propose site-specific projects in most cases, it will provide a vision for flood management, an implementation framework for future flood system improvements, and a series of specific recommendations to be taken between 2012 and 2017 (including possible feasibility studies, EIPs, and legislative, policy, or institutional changes). Between 2012 and 2017, there will be a shift from major planning activities to implementing recommendations.

Discussion:

- Participants asked how the Army Corp of Engineers feasibility studies influence and are influenced by the CVFPP and how the various studies are being tracked. Staff responded that the feasibility studies and CVFPP influence each other, and that cross program communication is being conducted by the DWR flood management program development team that meets 2-3 times per month.
- A participant asked how regional work group input will be incorporated into the solution sets. Staff responded that once the regional solution sets are developed, DWR will evaluate the tradeoffs and different approaches using the input received.
- A participant wondered how cost sharing will be presented in the CVFPP. Staff responded that a sustainable financing strategy and cost sharing approach are important, and DWR will need to evaluate current roles, funding responsibilities, and where resources are coming from. DWR will likely solicit advice from financial experts.

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- A participant clarified that the term “agencies” includes regional agencies.

Overview of Phase 3 Regional Solution Sets

Mr. Khadam provided an overview of Phase 3 activities and regional solution sets. He explained that the SPFCDD and FCSSR will help inform formulation of solution sets. Four solution sets are being considered at this time; each set provides a different focus to flood management. These sets include:

- Restore State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) design capacity
- Protect high-risk communities
- Manage the consequences of flooding
- Modify the flood system for enhanced benefits

Mr. Khadam noted that these solution sets do not represent “alternatives” as used in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but instead represent a strategy for flood management that can be applied in concert with other solution sets. For example, in some areas where residential areas back up against levees, the only available strategy could be to build floodwalls (protect high risk communities) while in other areas, setback levees could be built to provide flood and environmental benefits (modify the system for enhanced benefits). Comparison of the different solutions sets will allow the tradeoffs across them to be examined.

These solution sets will be the focus of Phase 3 of the CVFPP process. Supporting data and technical analysis will be used to apply the solution set approach to sub-regions or “benefit areas” within each CVFPP region. These solution sets will then be combined into regional solutions for preliminary evaluation and comparison.

Discussion:

- A participant noted that DWR needs to consider design capacity when considering how to spend money most effectively. Staff responded that DWR will make an effort to conduct the benefit-cost analysis in an integrated systemwide way and noted that the first solution set will address design capacity.
- A participant asked if DWR is currently doing reservoir reoperation studies. Mr. Khadam responded that an initial flood management facility analysis is currently under review.
- A participant asked when local representatives will be brought into the process. Mr. Khadam responded that an effort will be made to reach out to local flood managers and other interested parties during phase 3.

Regional Objectives

Mr. Khadam described the role of regional objectives, and Mr. Poncelet reviewed the process by which a Delta RMAWG subcommittee developed a draft set of regional objectives for consideration by the full work group. The regional objectives being defined in Phase 2 focus on the primary goal of flood system improvements; objectives to achieve the supporting goals will be the focus of Phase 3. Mr. Khadam went on to explain that the regional objectives developed by the subcommittee are helpful in comparing how well the regional solution sets achieve the CVFPP goals. The subcommittee met on October 22, 2010 in Sacramento. Subcommittee members included: Dave Shpak, George Booth, John Cain, Bill Darsie, Sarah Puckett, and Sam Sharideh.

Dave Shpak, Subcommittee Member, provided an overview of the October 22nd Delta Subcommittee meeting. He explained that the members had tried to come up with a rational approach to issues that engaged the objective setting process. The group recognized the position of the Delta, and how it is uniquely affected by other CVFPP regions and climate change. The subcommittee suggested that the first thing the Delta region ought to do is achieve levee standards that meet Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and PL 84-99, provide legacy communities with flood protection, and address the 200 year level of flood protection required for urban areas. Mr. Shpak acknowledged that the Delta regional objectives are still a work in progress and asked for feedback from the group.

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Discussion:

- A participant commented that it did not make sense to organize the plan around the goal of “reducing flooding.” There was broad support within the group around prioritizing the following regional objectives:
 - Minimize loss of life
 - Protect public safety infrastructure
 - Protect infrastructure of statewide importance
 - Protect things of local economic importance

There was also broad support within group to transform the objective addressing flood frequency into metrics or actions under the four objectives listed above. The group generally supported the idea that the desired level of protection for small communities, urban areas, and agricultural areas should be reflected as part of metrics or actions.

- A participant suggested the following text change to the third bullet under #1: “Provide rural/agricultural areas with protection that is consistent with achieving PL84-99 accreditation ***with*** Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) standard, at minimum.”
- A participant asked if the HMP would be required for all Delta communities. The group discussed the FEMA disaster funding implications when a HMP is not created.
- A participant commented that taxpayers are not going to want to provide funding if the reason is to meet the government standard. Several member expressed support for the need to explain the probability and liability of flooding to the public.
- A participant noted that reducing flood stages upstream could be an example action listed under draft regional objective 6.
- A participant asked for clarification regarding the distinction between riverine and estuary portions of the Delta system. While acknowledging how complicated it can be, the group suggested that a distinction can be made based on the steepness of the gradient, flow, and rise in water elevation. Staff announced that the Interim Levee Design Criteria Topic Work Group is working on identifying where the tidal levees are located.
- A participant suggested that the potential metrics include impact of flooding on ecosystem resources and functions.
- A participant suggested defining the term “natural”.
- A participant requested DWR consider carbon sequestration and tule growth in the Delta.

Phase 2 Assessment Process

Mr. Poncelet provided an overview of the Phase 2 assessment. Similar to the stakeholder assessment completed for Phase 1, participants were asked to fill out a short survey on the efficacy of the Phase 2 stakeholder engagement process. Staff will also transmit an electronic version of the survey to all Delta RMAWG members not in attendance (**see Action Item #1**). Mr. Poncelet also explained that a few individuals will be contacted for individual interviews; if Work Group members would like to be interviewed, they were asked to contact Mr. Poncelet as soon as possible (**see Action Item #2**).

Next Meetings, Action Item Review, Meeting Recap

Eric Poncelet thanked Work Group partners for their attendance and announced that Phase 3 would begin in early 2011. He also indicated that it will be assumed that Phase 2 regional work group members will continue to participate in Phase 3 unless they opt out.

Adjourn